**Merger of sick public sector undertakings of West Bengal**

31. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to merge five sick public sector undertakings of West Bengal into a new holding company ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) and (b) As part of the structural reorganisation of public enterprises, with a view to improve their autonomy, and inter-unit coordination, a proposal has been made to form holding companies consisting of public enterprises keeping in view their inter-related product groups. No decision has been taken on the proposal.

**Viability of EPI**

32. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Employees' Union regarding viability of Engineering Projects (India) Limited ;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal;

(c) whether the proposal is acceptable to Government ; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) to (d) . Engineernig Projects (India) Ltd. Employees Union have given suggestions to the Government for improving the viability of the Company, which include recovery of advances being shown as losses, appointment of a regular Chief Executive, action against corrupt officials and running the Company on a new footing and beginning. While taking a final decision on certain proposals for restructuring of the Company which are under consideration, Government will give due consideration to the suggestions made by the Engg. Projects (India) Ltd. Employees Union.

**Productivity of Indian Industries**

33. SHRI K. MOHANAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have ordered an inquiry into the productivity of Indian industries recently;

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the said inquiry;

(c) the details of the follow-up action taken or proposed to be taken by Government on the inquiry report, and

(d) if no follow-up action was ordered, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Tyre industry**

34. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the tyre industry unilaterally increased prices of tyres both before and after

the 1985-86 budget despite some informal understanding with the Government;

(b) if so, what are the details of the said informal understanding ;

(c) the penal measures taken against the tyre industry for this breach of trust;

(d) if no measures have been initiated so far, by when these would be initiated ; and

(e) if no measures are proposed to be initiated what are, the reasons for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to an informal understanding with the industry, the latter is expected to consult the Deptt. of Industrial Development before resorting to any increase in prices.

(c) to (e) There is no statutory control on prices/distribution of tyres at present. In the prevailing competitive market conditions, in which installed capacity and production are in excess of demand at present, and also when there is no control on price or distribution of raw materials and other inputs, it would not be appropriate to regulate the prices/distribution of tyres. However, Government has been frequently in Interacting with both tyre industry and raw material manufacturers with a view to maintaining the prices of tyres. Import of tyres has also been placed under open General Licence.

**Production of Oil**

35. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that during last year oil has been struck at various places in the country ;

(b) if so, the details of places where oil has been struck during the last one year ending on 30th September, 1985 ;

(c) how many barrels of oil were produced during the period since these new strikes ; and

(d) what is the total production of oil in the country during the period as compared to the previous year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a). Yes, Sir.

(b) During the year ending 30th September, 1985, oil was discovered in the following locations:

*Onland* :

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Kovilkallapal | Andhra Pradesh |
| 2. Limbodra | Gujarat |
| 3. Narimanam | Tamil Nadu |
| 4. Tinali<br>5. Rajgarh<br>6. Kuargaon | Assam |

*Offshore* :

Panna East & D-18 in Western offshore.

(c) 1871 kilo litres.

(d) The total production of crude oil during 1984-85 was 28.99 million tonnes as against 26.02 million tonnes in 1983-84.

**Protection of Industrial property**

36. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some quarters in this country have opposed